

COMMANDER'S RETIREE COUNCIL
Fort Rucker, Alabama

The Commander's Retiree Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on 1 May 2008. It was the 236th regularly scheduled meeting since the Council was established in 1973.

1. Members present/absent and advisors and guests present were:

MEMBERS (Army Retiree, except as indicated)

PRESENT

COL James E. Hyers	CSM Charles E. Frye
COL Herman S. Heath	SGM Sam McMaster
LTC James R. Mellish	1SG Ken Prier
LTC Clarence Collins	1SG Jackie Ray
LTC Carolyn Bost-Pittman	SMSgt Jean A. Woodruff, USAF
CW4 Robert N. Cooper	SFC Ralph E. Reed
Mrs. Marie Wilkins	SFC Burnett Jergenson

MEMBERS ABSENT

COL Bob Bunting	CSM James W. Harris
MAJ Jack K. Swinehart	SFC Joseph Barnes

ADVISORS PRESENT

Mr. Tim Laster, DFMWR	Mrs. Gail Braley, AG
Ms. Diane Snodgrass, AAFES	Mr. Mark Wonders, PAO
Mrs. Martha Frausto, LAHC PAO	Mr. Ed Donnely, VA
Mr. Chris Moore, RSO	

2. CSM Frye called the meeting to order at 1130.

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

4. Old Business - None

5. Committee Reports.

a. Public Affairs - Provided a calendar of events. Highlights included 24 May "Lakefest". Mother's Day Brunch will be at the Aviators' Landing Sunday, 11 May from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and reservations can be made with the catering office at 598-2426 ext 44.

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b. Legislative Affairs - COL Hyers reported the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 (S.1315) finally passed the Senate by a vote of 96 to 1. The Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007 includes a multitude of improvements to veterans' benefits, including provisions to: Raise the VA home mortgage life insurance rates to \$200,000 by 2012; increase supplemental burial benefits to \$2,100 in the case of a service-connected death and \$900 for a non-service connected death. The House has not completed action on their version of the legislation.

c. Health Care - Ms Martha Frausto reported Lyster Army Health Clinic (LAHC) will close for the Memorial Day holiday and staff will be reduced on Tuesday (DONSA), to include limited pharmacy hours.

d. Commissary - A case lot sale will take place 2-4 May. Paper products, produce, potted plants, and bottled water are a few of the products on sale. The current cash registers will be replaced beginning 1 Jun. The sushi bar opening will be determined and supervised by the deli section. Customers can now find gourmet cheese on the dairy aisle.

e. PX - Woks Works is closing and Popeye's Chicken will now occupy the space. The Garden Center has a great selection of outdoor plants and furniture. The new Joint Star Master Card will be issued/available soon and can be used everywhere. The new card will now be used like any other charge card and not restricted to only AAFES facilities.

f. Golf Course - The snack bar will be opening soon. Senior tees have been adjusted for over 60 golfers. A fundraiser for wounded Soldiers will be held on 30 May. Mr. Cooper reported on the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council meeting which convened 21-25 April. There were 50 hot issues submitted to the council and those issues were reduced to 33. The big emphasis was on health care. The Family Action Plan received high emphasis (i.e. ID cards, entitlements, retirees' knowledge of entitlements).

g. Equestrian Center - COL Heath reported construction of the covered area has been completed but the hay barn project is not completed.

h. Outdoor Recreation - Turkey season is over. Buckhorn Lake is currently closed and the fishing at Lake Tholocco is good for brim and shellcracker. The lodging at the lake has received good comments. The question was asked as to whether persons over 65 should have a permit.

i. Bowling Alley - The furniture will be replaced this year and a contract for a new marquee is in progress. Boston butts will be available for order every month because of the success of the previous sale. Call Susie at the bowling alley (x9503) to reserve your Boston butts (\$15.00).

j. RAD - Approval has been received to hold the RAD, 24-25 Oct. A speaker from the VA clinic, Mrs Anissa Bauman is the featured speaker for the event. A change of menu to a schnitzel buffet was discussed and a decision will be made soon.

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6. Advisors' Comments.

a. The AG reported a request for new hire was submitted for working the ID card section front desk.

b. Mr. Laster reported that the clubhouse renovation will be completed by 31 May. Coming soon will be a new outdoor recreation service center at the west marina. The lake lodge construction of a country store will be completed within a year at east Lake Tholocco.

c. Mr. Donnelly reported the Primary Care Clinic now has three providers, a number of RNs, and a dietician with more to follow. Beginning in Jun the VA will perform retirement examinations for active duty Soldiers. A psychiatrist, as well as other providers, will be hired to enable the clinic to see approximately 25 vets a day. The 2008 projection is for approximately 6,000 vets to be served at Ft Rucker. The LAHC second floor will be renovated in FY09. This expansion will allow approximately 15,000-20,000 veterans to be served a year.

7. New Business – CSM Frye discussed a gift for COL Block for his service on the retiree council. Council members donated money for COL Block's restaurant dinner.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1230. The next scheduled meeting will be held at Aviators' Landing on 5 Jun 08 at 1130.

Approved via-email

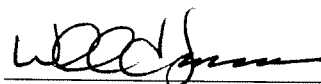
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